

Iowa Crops & Weather



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Cold Temperatures in Early December Gave Way to Moderation

Agricultural Summary: Early December colder than normal temperatures gave way to more seasonal temperatures by month's end. This resulted in muddy conditions and limited outdoor activities. Feedlot and pasture conditions were rated as muddy by several reporters. Generally, livestock conditions were rated as good, however, muddy conditions, warmer temperatures and humidity has caused some health problems. Subsoil moisture supplies remain a concern particularly in the eastern and southeastern areas of the state. Reports of producers purchasing inputs were received.

At the end of December, the average depth of **snow cover** across Iowa was 2 inches, compared to 0 inches at the same time last year. The average depth of **frost penetration** for the state was 4 inches, compared to last year's 9 inches. **Soil moisture availability** was rated 12 percent very short, 31 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. **Movement of grain** for the state was 34 percent none, 39 percent light, 24 percent moderate, and 3 percent heavy.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 6 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. **Quality of hay and roughage supplies** was 5 percent poor, 35 percent fair, and 60 percent good. **Utilization of stubble fields for grazing** rated 36 percent none, 24 percent limited, 30 percent moderate, and 10 percent extensive.

Hog and pig losses in December were slightly above last year's state averages at 20 percent below average, 77 percent average, and 3 percent above average. **Cattle and calf losses** were also above last year's state averages at 20 percent below average, 76 percent average, and 4 percent above average. Grazing on corn stalk fields was reported in some areas as conditions permitted. Colder temperatures early in the month increased livestock feeding.

IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2005

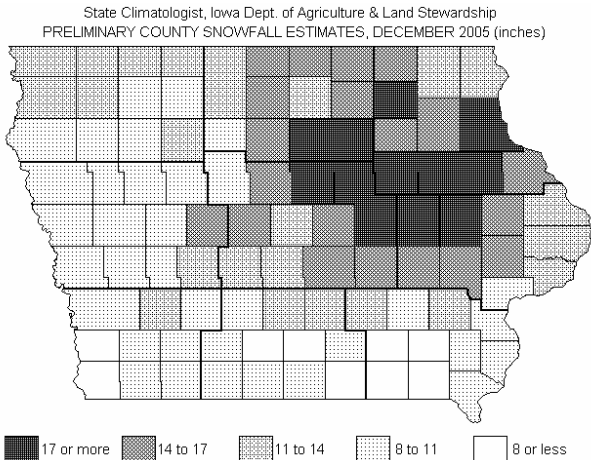
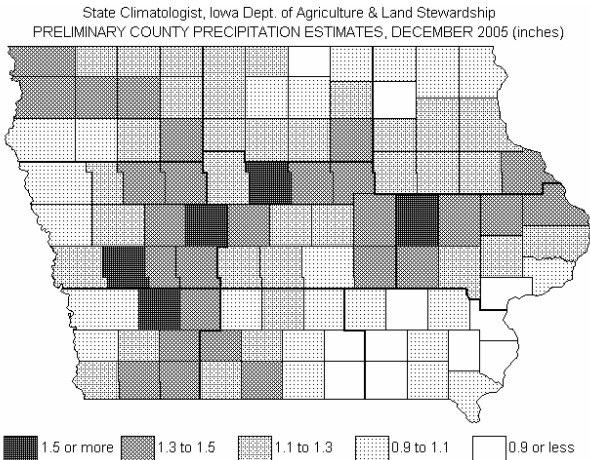
General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 20.1 degrees or 2.5 degrees less than normal while precipitation totaled 1.18 inches or 0.05 inches below normal. This ranks as the 32nd coldest and 58th wettest December among 133 years of state records.

Temperatures. December began very cold with subzero temperatures recorded somewhere in the state for each of the first nine days of the month. The coldest weather was reported from Cedar Rapids with a

-19 degrees minimum on the morning of the 7th. This followed daytime temperatures that failed to reach zero in a few areas on the 6th with Sanborn reporting a 'high' of -2 degrees. Temperatures rapidly moderated on the 10th with above normal readings prevailing from the 10th through the 15th. Temperatures rose no higher than 28 degrees anywhere in the state during the first nine days of the month while readings climbed above the freezing mark everywhere on the 10th. Cold weather returned from the 16th through the 21st with Elkader reporting a low of -17 degrees on the morning of the 19th. However, mild weather returned on the 22nd with much above normal temperatures prevailing in most areas through the remainder of the month. There were no subzero readings reported after the 21st while Sidney and Little Sioux reported the month's highest temperatures with 55 degrees readings on the 22nd. Temperatures averaged 20.1 degrees below normal for the first nine days of the month and 13.4 degrees above normal for the final ten days of December.

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 17 percent greater than last December and 6 percent greater than normal. Heating degree day totals so far this heating season (since July 1) are running 8 percent more than last year at this time and 6 percent less than normal. However, much higher prices for heating fuels will result in very large increases in heating bills.

Precipitation. Snowfall occurred very frequently during the first one-half of December. Storms dropped snow on the Nov. 30-Dec. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th-6th, 7th-8th, 10th, 11th, 13th-14th and 15th-16th. None of these events were especially large with greatest single-storm snow amounts of only 7 inches at Rock Valley and Sioux Center with the first storm and 8 inches at Forest City and Lake Mills with the next to last one. Nevertheless, this was Iowa's snowiest period since late January and early February of 2004 with an average of 12.4 inches falling during this 16 day period. Among preliminary reports, Toledo reported the most snow with 23.0 inches. This is their third largest monthly snow total in the past half century (behind 27.0 in Dec. 2000 and 25.5 in Jan. 1979). Only a few locations recorded measurable snow during the last half of December and by month's end the southwest two-thirds of Iowa was snow-free while 1 to 5 inches remained in the north and east central sections. Rain fell across southern Iowa on the 23rd-24th with 0.74 inches recorded at Lamoni. Monthly precipitation totals were generally above normal across northern and western Iowa and below normal over the south and east. The early month snow cover prevented the ground from freezing in most areas thus much of the month's precipitation was able to soak into the ground.



Snow Cover and Frost Penetration for the Month of January

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Snow cover	4	4	5	0	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Frost penetration	5	2	2	6	5	5	7	7	3	4	0	9

December Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service Prepared by AWIS, Inc.											
STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
	North West District										
Estherville	39	-15	18	0	0.52	-0.21	10	1,459	-9	29	25
Sioux Center	42	-16	19	-2	1.64	0.80	8	1,419	27	29	22
Spencer	39	-17	17	-2	0.43	-0.28	9	1,476	34	29	26
Spirit Lake	40	-12	18	1	0.41	-0.48	5	1,461	241	31	26
North Central District											
Britt	38	-13	15	-5	1.05	-0.31	12	1,535	121	31	30
Humboldt	40	-10	17	-5	1.15	0.14	11	1,490	92	31	30
Mason City	42	-10	18	0	0.49	-0.72	5	1,449	3	29	22
Northwood	41	-12	16	-2	1.13	-0.01	10	1,501	22	31	27
North East District											
Decorah	45	-16	18	-3	1.01	-0.20	10	1,450	78	30	23
Dubuque	38	-13	19	-4	1.61	-0.35	12	1,431	84	30	21
Elkader	45	-18	17	-6	1.21	-0.19	10	1,492	309	29	24
Independence	42	-13	17	-4	1.19	-0.34	10	1,475	193	31	23
Waterloo	41	-18	18	-3	1.11	-0.19	10	1,460	74	29	23
West Central District											
Audubon	48	-10	19	-5	0.68	-0.51	5	1,407	122	31	28
Carroll	48	-8	20	-1	1.44	0.48	9	1,378	20	31	27
Castana	50	-11	19	-5	1.03	0.20	9	1,422	29	31	27
Guthrie Center	50	-14	20	-3	1.45	0.17	8	1,382	68	30	30
Harlan	50	-10	21	-3	1.65	0.64	11	1,354	-16	30	26
Jefferson	50	-9	20	-2	1.69	0.73	11	1,373	15	31	27
Logan	53	-14	21	-2	1.21	0.14	8	1,354	41	31	26
Rockwell City	42	-10	18	-4	1.21	0.28	9	1,447	111	31	28
Sioux City	53	-13	22	1	0.95	0.17	11	1,321	-18	26	23
Central District											
Ames	43	-16	20	-2	0.94	-0.17	10	1,387	28	28	21
Boone	48	-13	19	-4	1.73	0.39	13	1,427	83	31	30
Des Moines	54	-5	24	-1	0.86	-0.46	10	1,265	5	25	18
Eldora	43	-11	18	-4	1.68	0.53	14	1,455	83	31	25
Marshalltown	41	-16	19	-3	0.57	-0.72	10	1,413	80	29	20
Newton	47	-10	19	-4	1.09	-0.04	10	1,407	114	29	25
Perry	51	-12	20	-3	1.19	0.13	11	1,380	55	31	27
Toledo	41	-14	18	-5	1.12	-0.13	10	1,466	128	30	24
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	39	-17	19	-5	0.91	-0.68	10	1,422	112	29	21
Davenport	43	-11	22	-4	0.75	-1.17	12	1,330	110	25	22
Iowa City	43	-11	23	-4	1.29	-0.27	8	1,308	96	22	20
Lowden	42	-16	17	-6	1.24	-0.87	12	1,476	176	31	25
Maquoketa	39	-15	17	-7	1.09	-0.71	10	1,472	167	30	25
Muscatine	47	-11	21	-6	1.22	-0.75	11	1,362	-28	28	23
South West District											
Clarinda	50	-15	22	-3	1.31	0.13	7	1,313	61	30	25
Glenwood	53	-8	24	-2	1.03	-0.15	8	1,280	46	31	25
Oakland	52	-8	22	0	1.23	0.16	9	1,316	5	31	26
Red Oak	52	-12	23	-3	1.21	0.00	8	1,283	60	30	23
Sidney	55	-6	24	-2	1.09	-0.07	5	1,248	23	30	22
South Central District											
Allerton	50	-8	23	-3	1.01	-0.30	8	1,302	-178	31	26
Beaconsfield	50	-9	22	-4	1.28	0.17	7	1,335	83	29	27
Chariton	50	-10	22	-3	0.84	-0.52	10	1,327	62	28	25
Indianola	54	-12	22	-3	1.31	-0.07	9	1,328	65	31	24
Leon	52	-9	23	-2	1.27	-0.09	9	1,285	36	28	25
South East District											
Bloomfield	51	-7	24	-4	0.69	-0.87	10	1,267	100	29	24
Burlington	54	-8	27	1	0.48	-1.50	6	1,171	-15	21	20
Ottumwa	50	-9	24	-3	0.58	-0.85	5	1,261	46	26	19

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air
 Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.